



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department Of Agriculture Rural Development
Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508
(402) 437-5551 (Phone) (402) 437-5093 (TDY) (402) 437-5408 (Fax)

Roberta Mues (308) 534-2360

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MORRILL CELEBRATE FUNDING OF \$3 MILLION FOR WATER IMPROVEMENTS

Morrill, Neb., April 21, 2006 — USDA Rural Development and the residents of Morrill celebrated in honor of Earth Day, the funding of \$3 million for water improvements that will ensure a dependable supply of safe drinking water to the near 1,000 residents of the village.

"Rural Development is pleased to assist Morrill with their water system upgrades that will bring their system back within state regulatory guidelines; affording for a healthier glass of water to drink, increased water conservation and greater fire protection to the community," said Scot Blehm, state director for USDA Rural Development in Nebraska. "Reliable supplies of quality water are essential to rural communities such as Morrill."

USDA Rural Development presented a ceremonial check to the Village of Morrill for a \$1,924,000 loan and \$1,076,000 grant to be used for water system improvements. USDA funds provided via the Water and Waste Disposal Loan and Grant program. Terms of loan are 40 years at 4.375 percent interest. Boy Scouts Troop 97 participated in the Earth Day celebration with presentation of the colors. Jamey Frederick, Earth Day Coordinator from Morrill Public School and students reflected on the meaning of Earth Day.

"The Village of Morrill is pleased to be the recipient of the USDA Rural Development funds," said Dennis Ostendorf, chairman for the Village of Morrill. "The monies will go a long way in correcting our water system deficiencies."

Morrill is facing deficiencies regarding its water source, storage and distribution. Their water source consists of three municipal wells, two of which are out of compliance with the new maximum contaminant levels (MCL) for arsenic and uranium with the third well close to exceeding the MCL for arsenic. The Nebraska Department of Regulation and Licensure issued an Administrative Order on April 26, 2005 to the village public water system for violation of MCLs for uranium. Morrill's existing water tower is undersized at the present 55,000 gallon capacity, making it unable to meet the village's average daily use. Additionally, various distribution system mains have deteriorated, are undersized or need to be looped to eliminate dead ends. Meters also need to be installed for residential users.

"This project will improve the capability of the water system to provide a reliable supply of safe drinking water to the residents of Morrill," said Frank Strong, project engineer from M.C. Schaff & Associates, Inc. "This undertaking will not only improve water quality for the Village but will help promote water conservation."

-more-



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department Of Agriculture Rural Development
Rm. 152 Federal Building 100 Centennial Mall North Lincoln, Neb. 68508
(402) 437-5551 (Phone) (402) 437-5093 (TDY) (402) 437-5408 (Fax)

USDA Rural Development funds will develop two new wells and install 2,500 linear feet of transmission main to connect the new well field to the existing distribution system. A 300,000 gallon storage tank will be constructed and 1,400 linear feet of water mains, valves, hydrants and water meters will be installed or replaced.

Contact Roberta Mues at 1202 S. Cottonwood, Ste. 3 North Platte, Neb. 69101; (308) 534-2360, (402) 437-5093 (TTY). Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

#

“USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity provider, employer and lender.” To file a complaint of discrimination write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice), or (202) 720-6382 (TDD).